NEWS & VIEWS

Kids in New Jersey Schools Can Win Cash Prizes by Shilling for Vaccine Makers

The New Jersey Department of Health's "Protect Me With a" contest encourages kids and teens to create posters and videos — using health-department-crafted memes — in a private-school-only contest that centers the lying trick in "Propaganda-Other-Children."

By Michael Nevradakis, Ph.D.

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New Jersey schoolchildren can enter a contest to earn cash prizes by creating posters and videos that promote vaccines.

The contest, called "Protect Me With a," encourages "inclusive New Jersey communities" about the "benefits" of vaccines in accordance with the New Jersey Department of Health and the Partnership for Maternal & Child Health of Northern New Jersey.

The campaign, open to children and teens in grades 5-12, requires students to create a poster or 30-second video to "raise awareness of the importance of vaccination against one of the following diseases: chickenpox, COVID-19, flu, hepatitis A, hepatitis B, HPV, measles, meningitis, mumps, pertussis (whooping cough), polio, rotavirus or shingles," according to the contest's guidelines.

"By getting vaccinated, you are protecting yourself and your family and friends," the contest continues, encouraging students to "be creative and have fun with your entries" — but not "scary, dark, adult, grandparent, or someone unable to be vaccinated."

Contest participants are split into a #1ST3RD group and a #4TH5TH group. Teachers whose classes submit the most entries will be awarded $75 each.

An accompanying contest by the NJDOH-targeting university students asks them to create content promoting vaccines with the phrase "Step Up! Vax Up!" and offers a top prize of $1,000 to the winning entry.

Some medical and legal experts said they fear school concerns about having children participate in a contest to promote pharmaceutical products.

"This type of insidious manipulation of children for Pfizer's profit is cruel and inhumane," said Robert F. Kennedy Jr., founder of the Health Freedom Defense Fund and former presidential candidate.

"It is typical of the pharmaceutocracy at Health to lie about the safety profile of vaccines, but NJDOH takes it one step further, where the targeted audience is children and teens," Kennedy said.

New Jersey-based attorney Julie Green told The Defender that NJDOH has strayed from its mission — and from ethics — in this contest.

"According to its website, the primary goal of the NJDOH is to improve the well-being and safety of people in New Jersey. It does this through research, health promotion and education, and health data collection and analysis.

"In light of the vast amount of scientific evidence available today about the risks and ineffectiveness of the entire childhood vaccine program, in particular the number of children who have been injured by vaccines and compensated by the government for their proven injuries, it is unethical for the NJDOH to encourage children to participate in a contest that promotes Pfizer's products. The NJDOH has completely abandoned its mission."

Recruiting children to propagandize other children

Ann Ream, a member of CHD's New Jersey chapter, told The Defender the NJDOH organizes this contest to encourage children to "recruit other children" to "spread the propaganda" — "the lies, the intentions, talents and creativity are evident. Critical thinking and scientific literacy profiles are absent. And this appears to be by design."

Rosen said The Protect Me With-ers campaign originally promoted three vaccines, but the number has since been "just growing" — resulting in "31" being added to the contest.

She said the contest is misleading and misinformative.

"The idea of recruiting young children to really concerning, because they're recruiting children to propagandize other children with these sorts of incentives, and they're playing with the assumption that all these things are good," Rosen said. "They're misinforming children about vaccines, and they're using these incentives to do it. It's really quite disturbing."

These are "unfair incentives," Veneziia said. "My time you share is monetary value to something, you're going to get something to participate in that. It's definitely a push."

She added: "This isn't something that's happening organically. This is not children deciding 'health is important to me' and 'I have to kick this and we're going to step this up in the form of a contest or a competition.'"

"Cash incentives are going to push them in a certain direction, and they will do anything for it, especially in such a young age," Veneziia said.

Brianna "BJ" Zoccoli compared the contest to "the 'get a donut free' type of marketing campaign" strategically used by the state of Oregon.

Zoccoli, who was injured by the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine and is now suing the Biden administration and federal public health officials, said, "When those kids end up at Step10 because of injuries, it's no longer a cute little game."

Using students to create marketing with No Pig Pharma

The Protect Me With-ers contest guidelines also instruct students to use only "resources" from its own website as part of poster or video they create.

But Charlene Dahlka, the New Jersey state chair for the Former/Selfish/Ego Freedom Foundation, a CHD chapter, told The Defender that "the resources" on the CHD's "Proposal protocol" website, "promote more than a dozen varieties of misinformation."

"The government is compressing the phrases that they wish the students to repeat in the posters" or videos, Dahlka told The Defender. "By force, the government is using coercion to get them to cheap labor to create marketing ads for the pharmaceutical companies."

Rosen encouraged parents to urge transparent duties to create this propaganda campaign on behalf of Big Pharma," she added.

Veneziia added:

> "That is not promoting any critical thinking skills or independent investigation or motivation of any of these resources. And that's a problem because they want us to push advertisements if you don't use the 'proper' information that they've provided, it's not encouraging the thinking or independent study. It's exactly what it is propaganda."

According to Ream, the contest instructions, along with the specific vaccines the students are required to promote, are "forcing kids to regurgitate" officially sanctioned messages about vaccines.

"They're training children to regurgitate things and believe they are facts when they are not scientifically-valid facts," she said.

The website for CHD's New Jersey chapter notes that children participating in the contest will not have any information about the vaccines in question, such as the risks of the vaccines, the vaccine's symptoms and does not present information about vaccine ingredients.

Dahlka told The Defender that "the government is using the same tactics" as the "Nazis" used to "indoctrinate" children for the Defender. "By force, the government is using coercion to get them to cheap labor to create marketing ads for the pharmaceutical companies."

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Directly targeting children to bypass their parents

Local activists also said they were not surprised that the state would organize such a contest.

"If you follow the NJDOH and the wreckings of the boards of health and a lot of the associated organizations, it's not really surprising," Green said.

According to Dahlka, "The New Jersey Department of Education, in cooperation with NJDOH, used the school as a pharmaceutical [CHILD-19 vaccination] clinic for those injections. And so it's not a big pressure them to get the vaccine by applying peer pressure and bullying tactics against those kids who did not want to get vaccinated.

"With the rapid decline of public confidence in the medical community for misleading information and the rise of parents' rights movements, pharmaceutical companies have found that they can't get a vaccine mandated [school] class, due to their inability to provide concrete medical proof[ness]."

"Using tampered funded schools as a marketing channel on behalf of pharmaceutical companies is breaking the public trust further in a display of government incestuous ties," she added.

Veneziia told The Defender that the NJDOH should "cease the contest and put it in the hands of professionals, not undigest students and teachers, who are not trained in the medical profession" like the NJDOH to "stop this pharmaceutical marketing campaign disguised as a contest."

"It is unethical. It is dangerous. It meets all the criteria for fraudulent business practices. Targeting children with pharmaceutical products should not be allowed," she said.

Dahlka suggested the NJDOH created a "marketing campaign with a simple sentence: 'If vaccines are safe, why do you have to bribe us?'" — referring to the liability shield vaccine manufacturers are afforded under the law.

Rosen had some advice for parents of New Jersey schoolchildren.

"Before you allow your kids to participate in this contest, consider whether you think children's health is more important than the money that they're going to get from this contest," she said. "Do you want to find a medical recommendation to other children? Because that's essentially what they're using our kids to do."

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